

Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Department of Children and Families – Agency Update

October 17, 2020



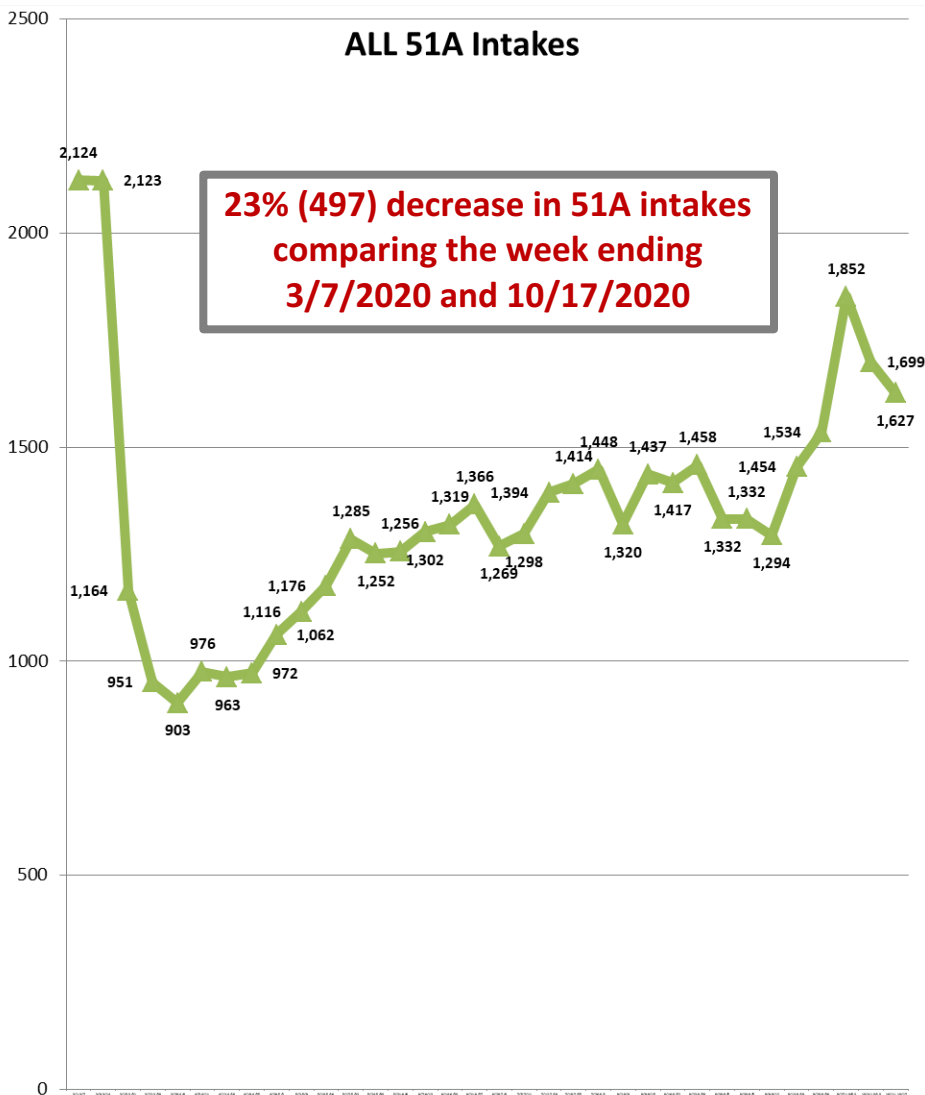
51A Intakes Pre vs Post COVID-19

03/01/2020 to 10/17/2020

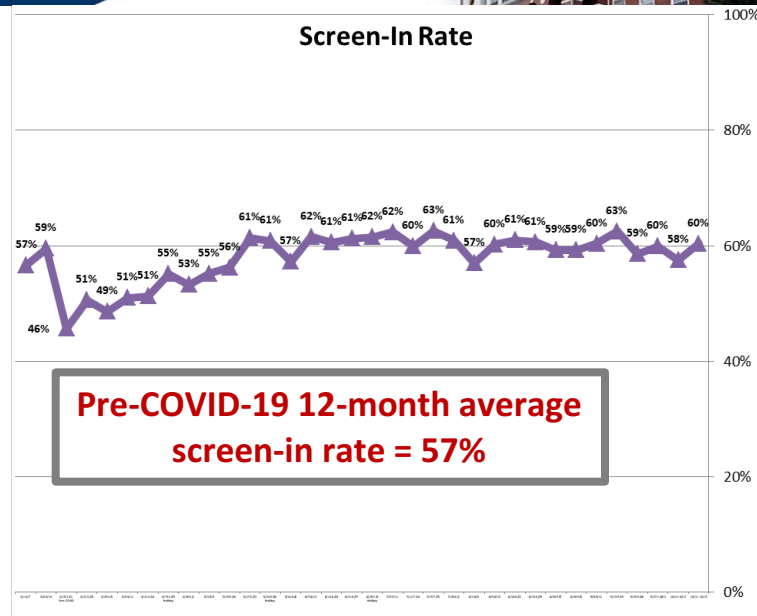


ALL 51A Intakes

23% (497) decrease in 51A intakes comparing the week ending 3/7/2020 and 10/17/2020

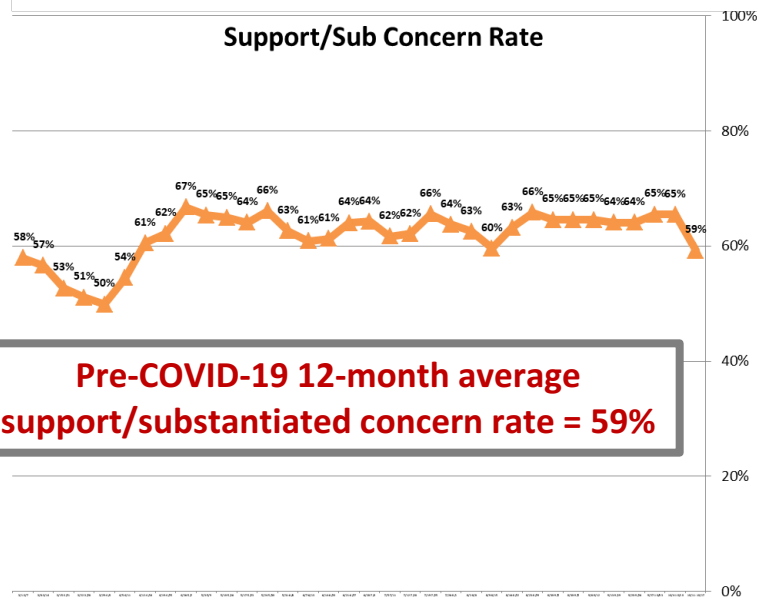


Screen-In Rate



Pre-COVID-19 12-month average screen-in rate = 57%

Support/Sub Concern Rate

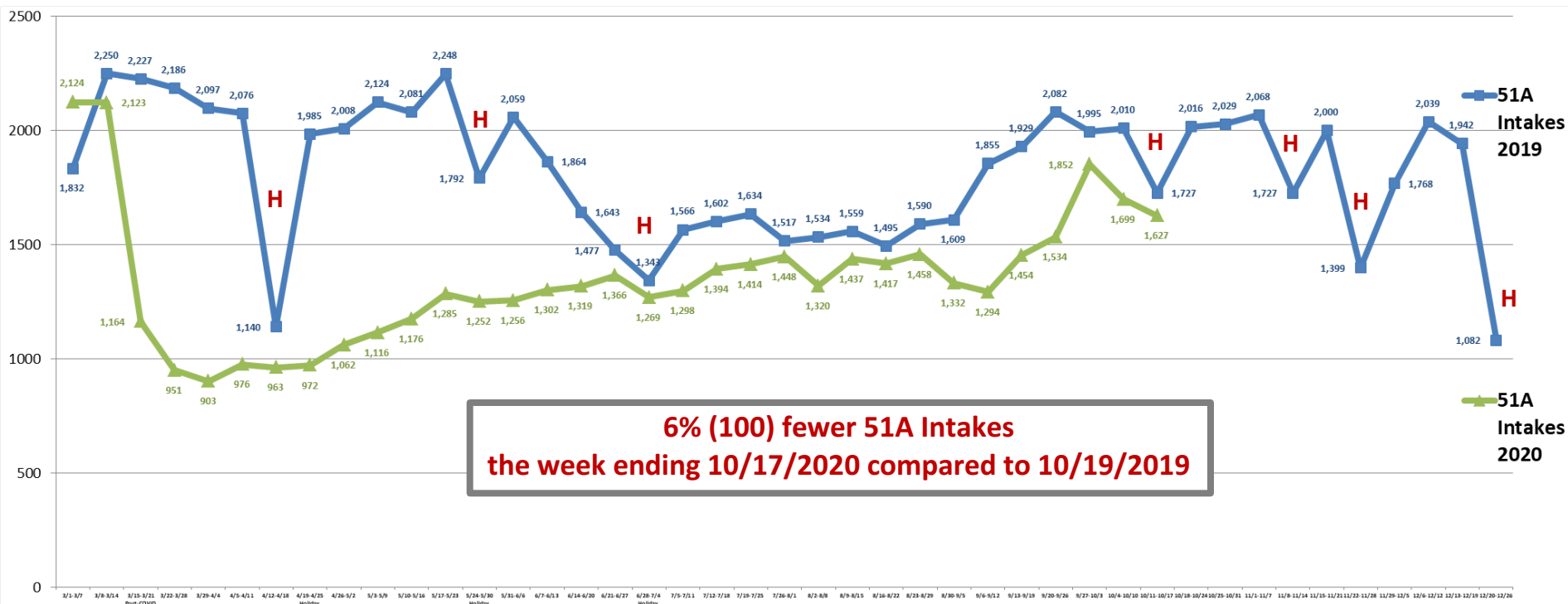


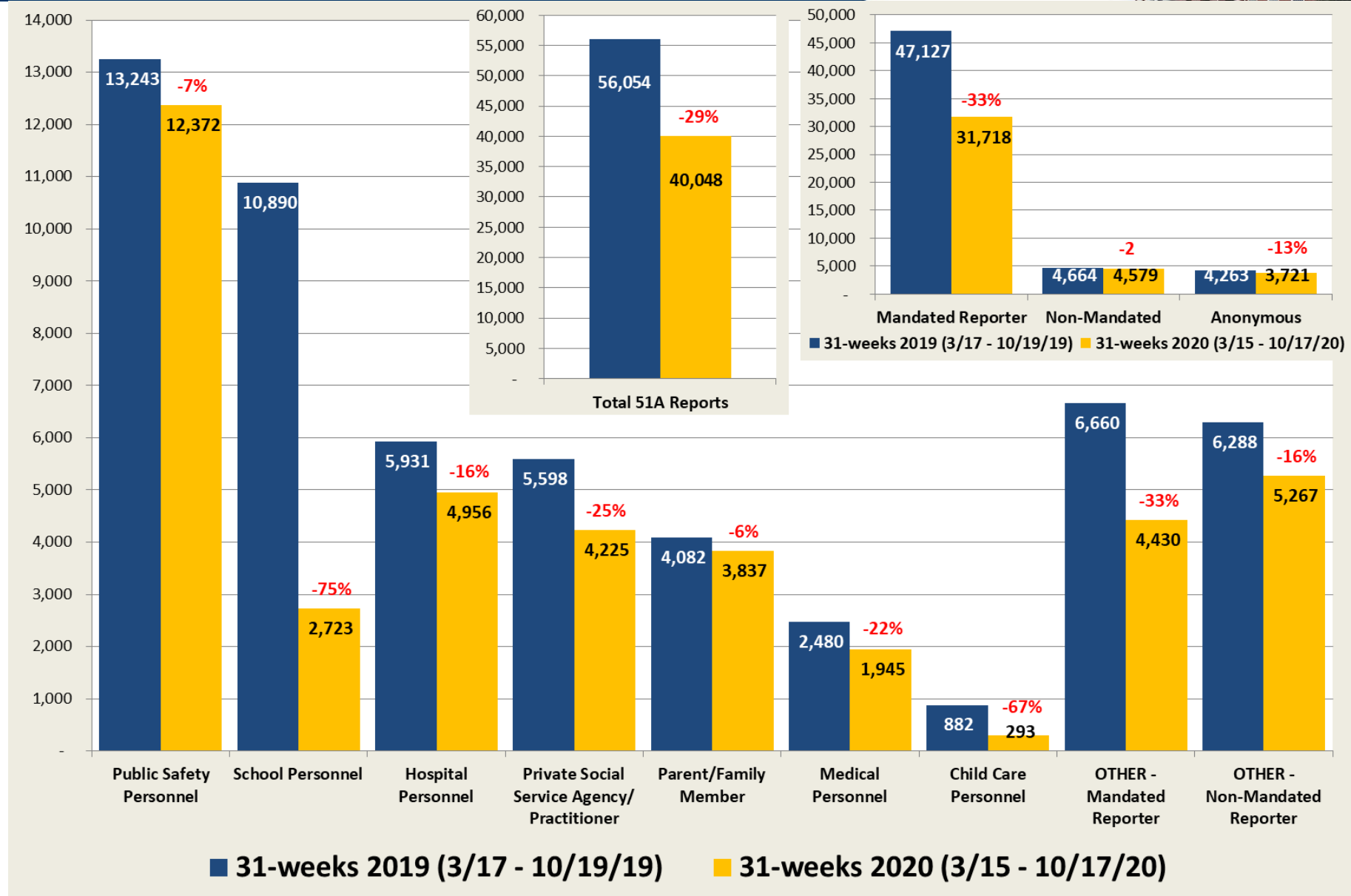
Pre-COVID-19 12-month average support/substantiated concern rate = 59%



51A Intakes Pre vs Post COVID-19

03/01/2020 to 10/17/2020





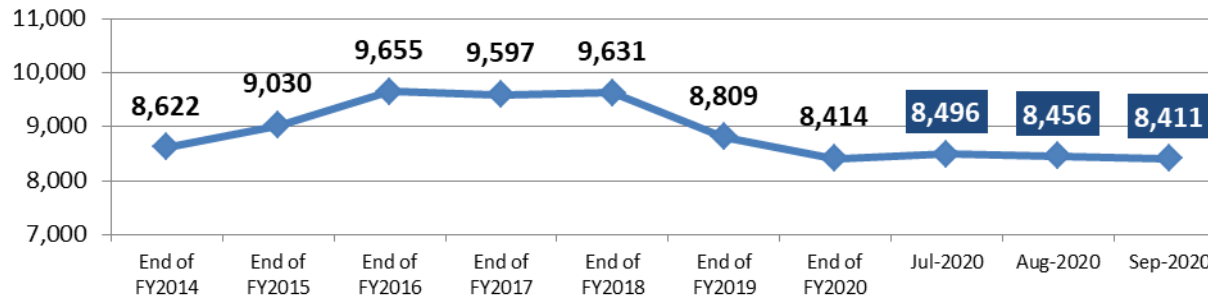


Children (0-17) in DCF Placement

All Placement Types



Children (0-17) in Placement



- The number of children in DCF placement at year-end decreased by 9% (-822) from FY18-19, and by 4% (-395) from FY19-20.

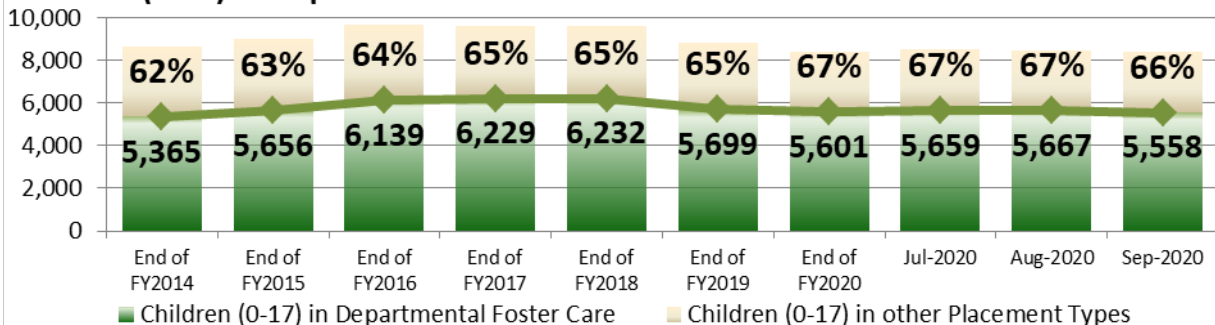


Children in DCF Placement

Departmental FC: Non-Kinship and Kin/Child Specific

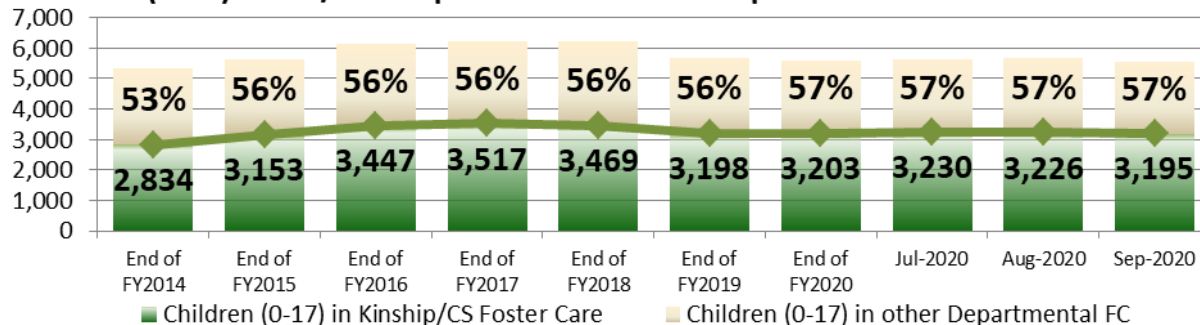


Children (0-17) in Departmental FC as a % of All Placements



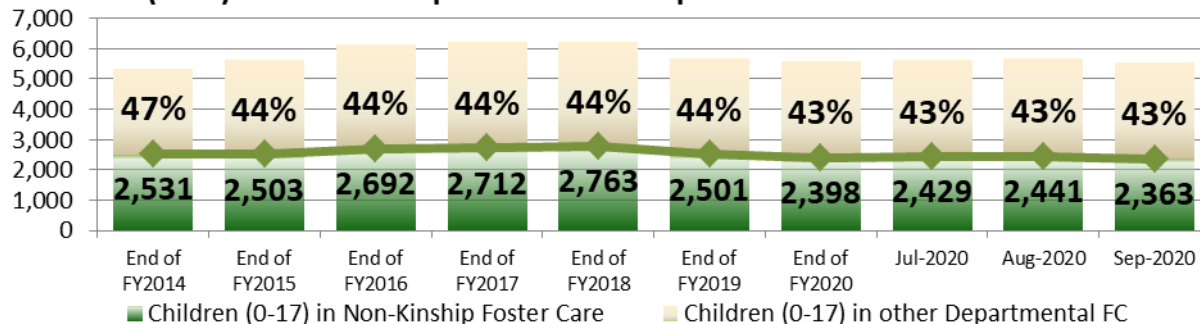
- As of 09/30/2020, there were 5,558 children placed in a family setting (i.e., Departmental Foster Care).
- While the overall number of children in DCF placement has decreased, the proportion placed in Departmental Foster Care (DFC) has increased to 66-67%.

Children (0-17) in Kin/Child Specific FC as a % of Departmental FC



- As of 09/30/2020, there were 3,195 children placed in a Kinship/Child Specific DFC family setting.
- Recognizing that children/youth experience fewer placement disruptions and achieve greater well-being when placed with kin, the Department has increased the proportion of children placed with kin to 57% of all DFC.

Children (0-17) in Non-Kinship FC as a % of Departmental FC



- As of 09/30/2020, there were 2,363 children placed in a Non-Kinship DFC family setting.
- As a proportion of children placed in DFC, 43% are living in a non-kin family setting.

Note: Recent monthly counts are not final.

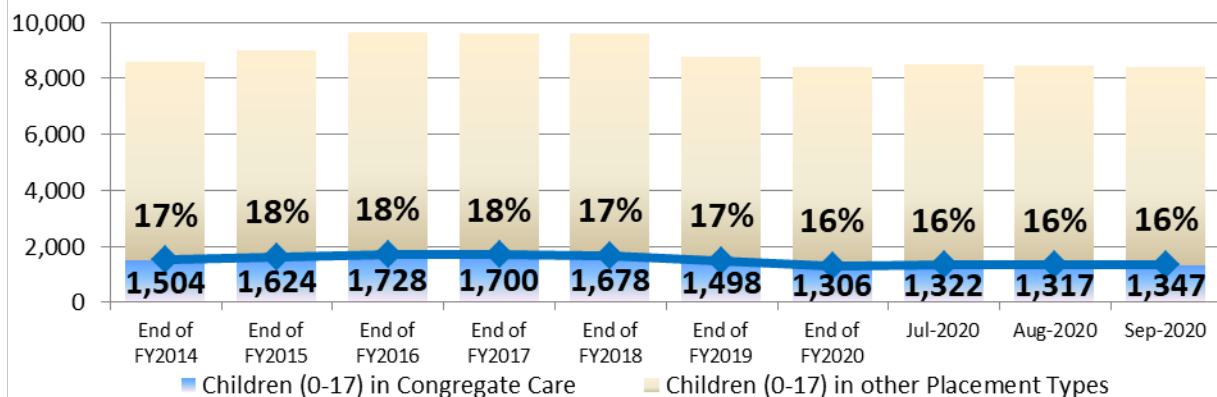


Children in DCF Placement

Congregate Care and Comprehensive Foster Care

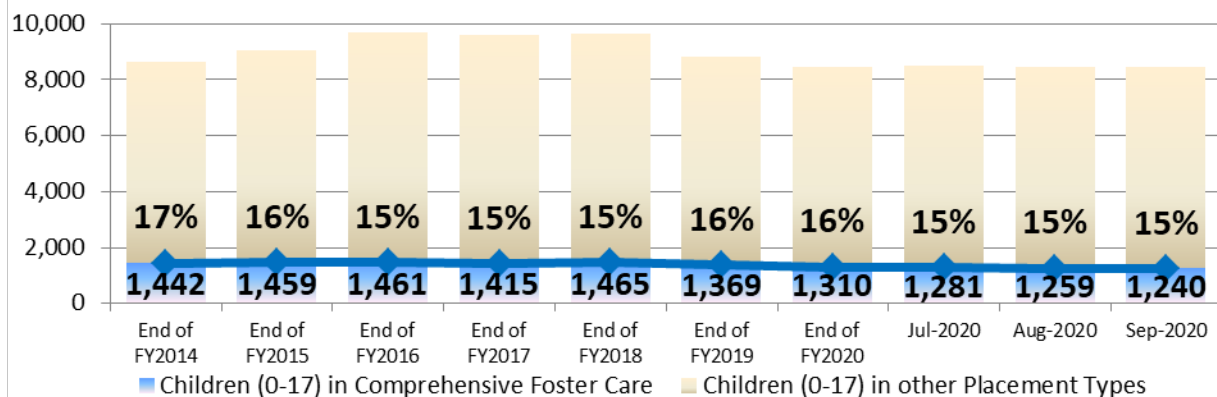


Children (0-17) in Congregate Care as a % of All Placements



- As of 09/30/2020, there were 1,347 children placed in Congregate Care.
- Congregate Care represents 16% of all placement utilization.

Children (0-17) in Comprehensive FC as a % of All Placements



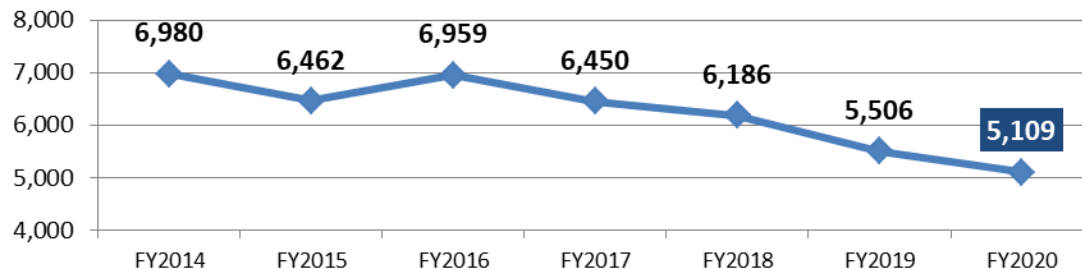
- As of 09/30/2020, there were 1,240 children placed in Comprehensive Foster Care.
- Comprehensive Foster Care represents 15% of all placement utilization.

- *These contracted, intensive foster care services are generally provided for children/youth for whom a traditional foster care environment is not suitable or sufficiently supportive.*



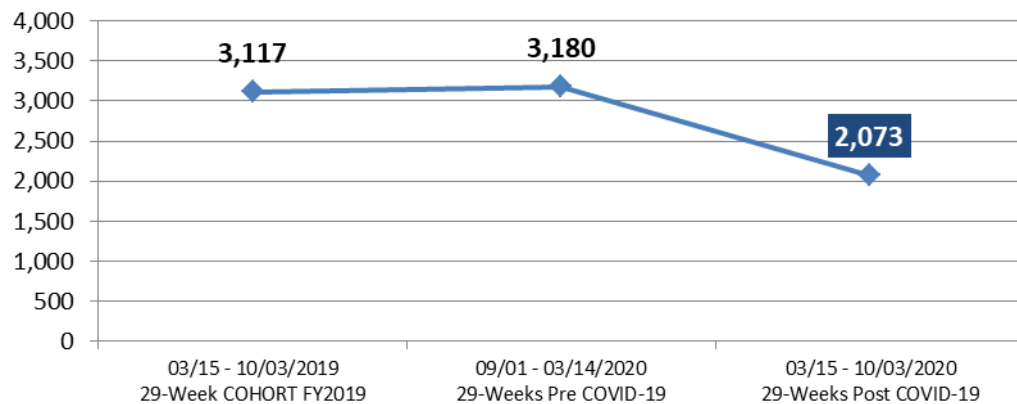
Home Removal Episodes

Home Removal Episodes (HREs)



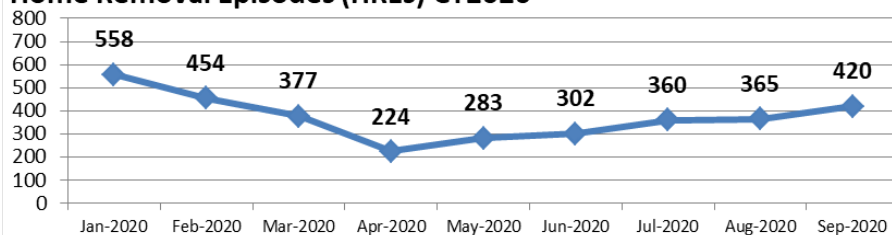
- Home Removal Episodes (HREs) decreased by 27% (-1,871) between FY14 & FY20.

Home Removal Episodes (HREs): Pre vs. Post COVID-19



- The impact of COVID-19 on HREs is evident when comparing year-over-year HRE counts for comparable 29-week periods.
- Accounting for seasonal variation, HREs are down 33% (-1,044) compared to an equivalent 29-week period year-over-year.
- HREs are down 35% (-1,107) compared to the 29-week period immediately preceding the COVID-19 cohort.

Home Removal Episodes (HREs) CY2020



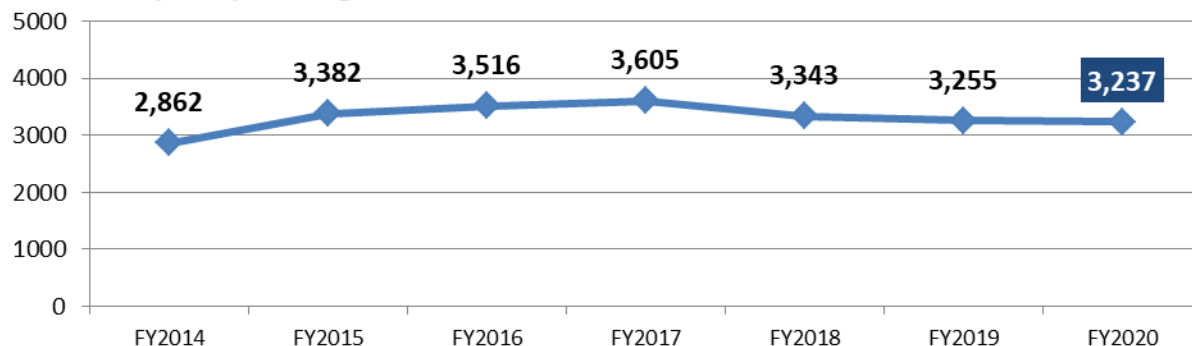
- While Home Removal Episodes (HREs) decreased post COVID-19, an uptick is evident in the last five months.

Note: Recent monthly counts are not final.



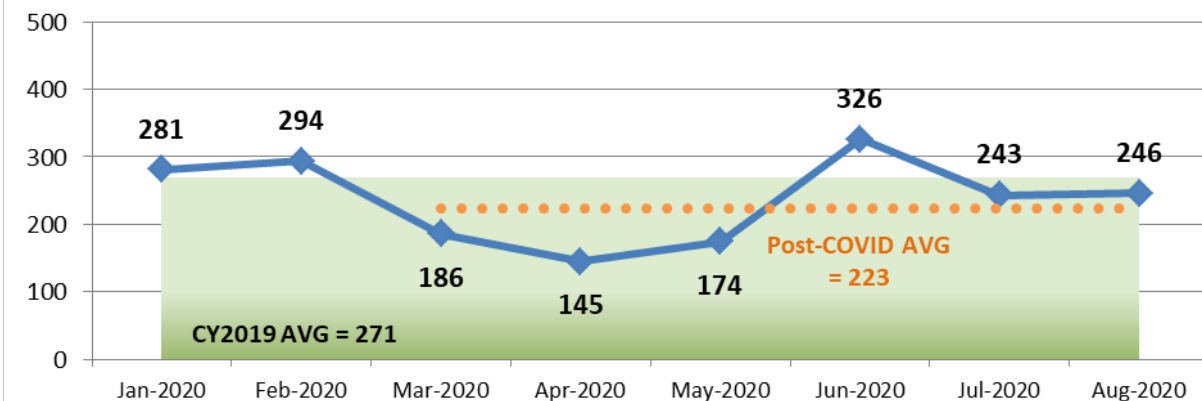
Children Exiting Care to Reunification

Children (0-17) Exiting Care to Reunification



- Tracking with a 14% (-1,380) decrease in placed children since FY17, the number of children exiting placement to reunification has trended downward.
- Notwithstanding, the relative proportion of reunifications as a percent of placed children has remained fairly unchanged.

Children (0-17) Exiting Care to Reunification CY2020



- These reunification counts are preliminary and may be adjusted upward as the dataset ages.

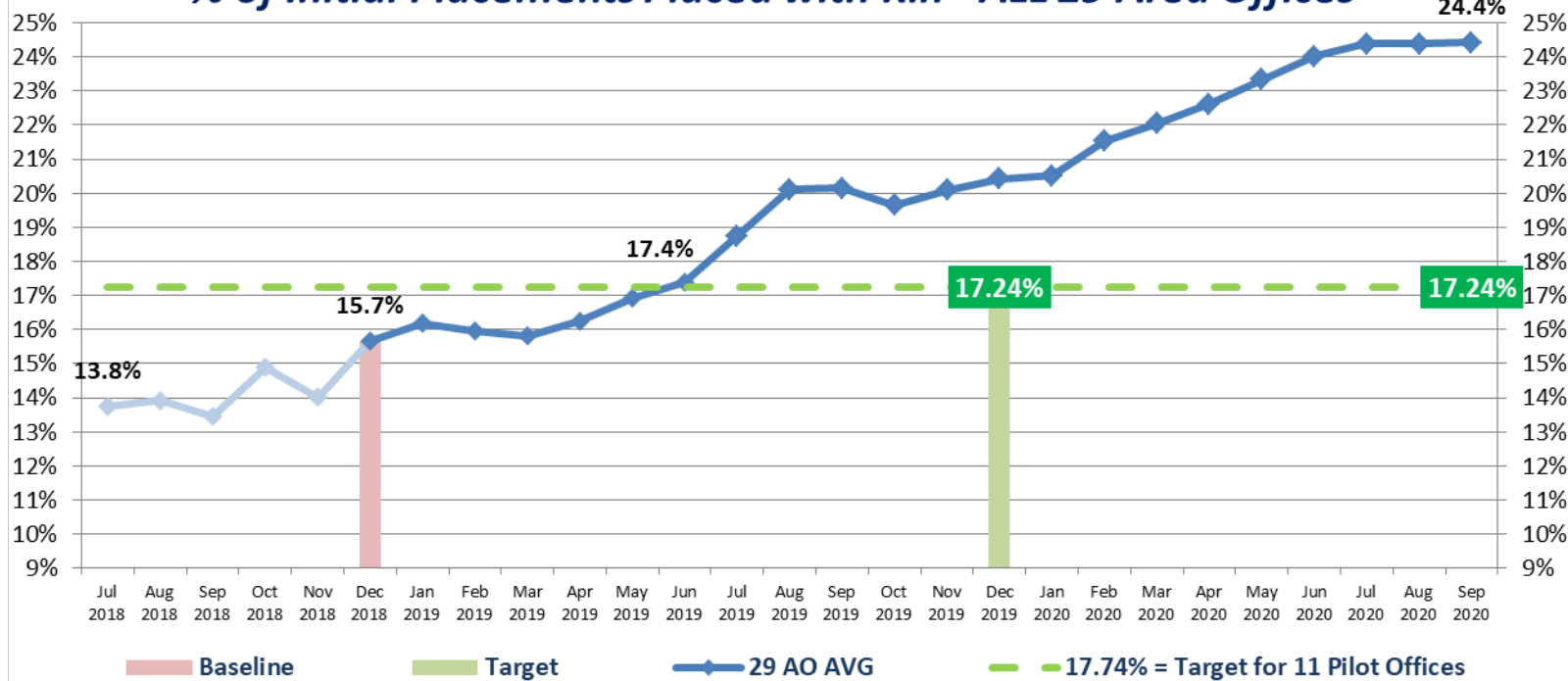
- On average, there were 271 reunification per month in CY19.
- Likely reflecting the impact of COVID-19—reunifications are averaging 223 per month since Mar-2020.



Initial Placement with Kin Kin-First



% of Initial Placements Placed with Kin - ALL 29 Area Offices



- Extending the Kin-First metric across all 29 area offices, a 78% increase in kin as the initial placement was evidenced in FY19 and into FY20.
- While no statewide target was established, by Sep-2019 statewide performance exceeded the 17.24% target established for the 11 Pilot Offices.
- Kin placements account for 40% of ALL out-of-home placements; and 58% of all Departmental Foster Care placements.

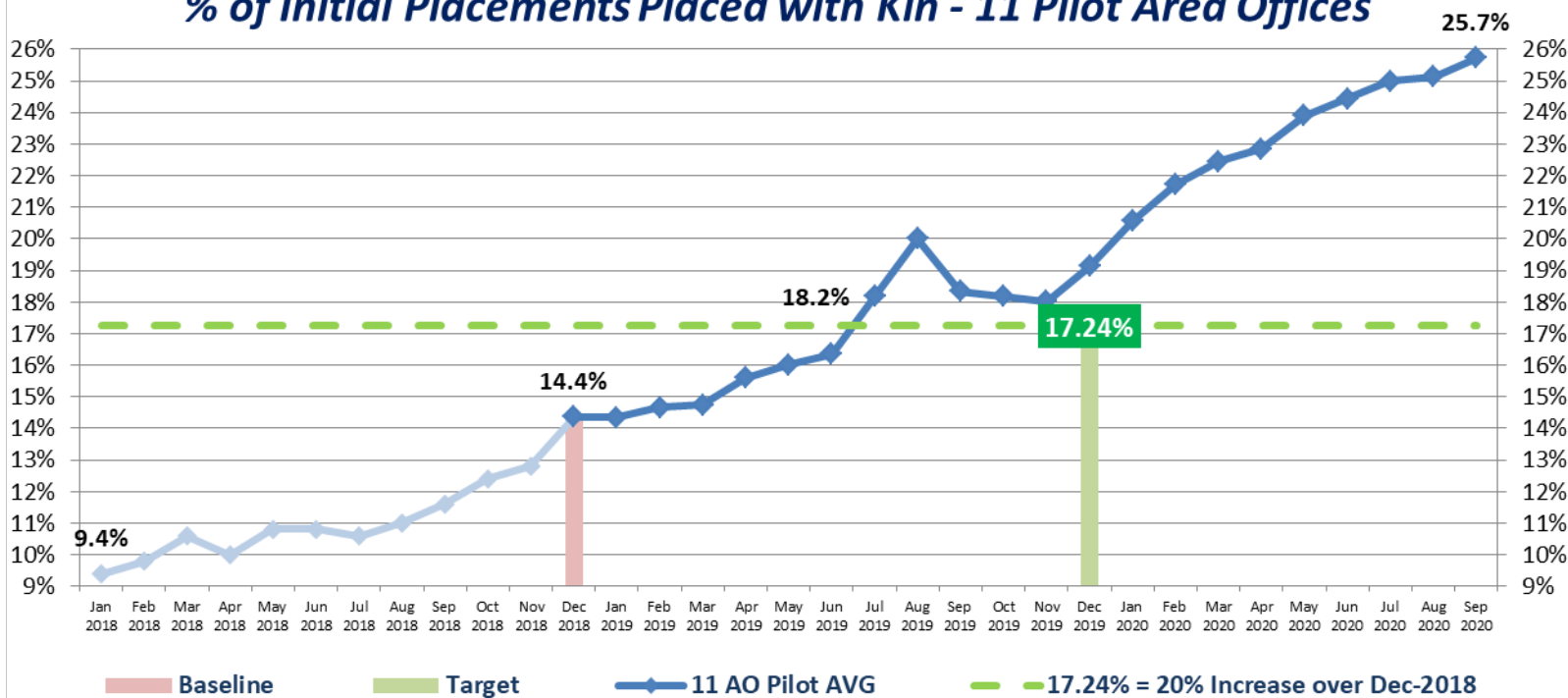


Initial Placement with Kin

Kin-First Pilot



% of Initial Placements Placed with Kin - 11 Pilot Area Offices





Case Closing Trend Pre vs Post COVID-19 Accounting for Seasonality



CASE CLOSING TREND

Pre vs Post COVID-19

(31 week intervals)

